

WE CLAIM:

1. A fluid coupling comprising:

a pump having a pump shell and a plurality of impellers arranged in said pump shell;

5 a turbine having a turbine shell arranged to be opposed to said pump and a plurality of runners arranged in said turbine shell; and

a baffle mechanism arranged in a fluid circulation passage formed by said pump shell and said turbine shell;

10 wherein

said baffle mechanism comprises a first annular baffle plate that has a plurality of first openings in the circumferential direction and is constituted integrally with said pump or with said turbine, a second annular baffle plate
15 that has a plurality of second openings in the circumferential direction and is disposed in such a manner as to overlap with said first baffle plate and as to be allowed to rotate relative thereto, and a centrifugal operation means for turning said second baffle plate relative to said first
20 baffle plate in response to the rotational speed of said first baffle plate; and

said centrifugal operation means brings said second baffle plate relative to said first baffle plate to such a position that the amount of overlapping of said first
25 openings and said second openings decreases when the rotational speed of said first baffle plate is low, and turns said second baffle plate relative to said first baffle plate so as to increase the amount of overlapping of said first openings and said second openings when the rotational speed
30 of said first baffle plate increases.

2. A fluid coupling according to claim 1, wherein said centrifugal operation means comprises first elongated holes and second elongated holes formed respectively in said first

baffle plate and said second baffle plate in the directions of diameters thereof, weight members disposed being inserted through said first elongated holes and in said second elongated holes, and a resilient urging means for so urging
5 said second baffle plate as to be turned in a predetermined direction relative to said first baffle plate, at least either one of said first elongated holes or said second elongated holes being tilted with respect to straight lines in the radial direction passing through the center thereof.